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DDI-3461-73

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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June 5, 1973

NSC review completed - may be declassified in full

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Study of Reconnaissance Operations

The President has directed that a study be made of our reconnaissance operations to insure the validity and priority of the intelligence requirements, that collection requirements are at a level consistent with those requirements, and that risks to vulnerable collection operations are properly assessed and kept under review prior to and during the missions involved.

The study should cover those airborne, surface, overhead and underwater reconnaissance operations currently subject to monthly approval by the 40 Committee and those operated in Southeast Asia. It should consider justification for COMINT, ELINT and imagery collection, the potential for use of overhead and unmanned platforms in lieu of peripheral and manned ones, the balance of priority and merit against risk and costs, response to incidents, and other topics pertinent to establishing confidence that the operations proposed serve essential purposes and are conducted with maximum effectiveness.

Since the bulk of the reconnaissance operations are conducted in response to the requirements of the Unified and Specified Commands, the Secretary of Defense is requested to organize and conduct this study, insuring that the Director of Central Intelligence is consulted with regard to the usefulness of the intelligence product derived from these operations. The completed study, with findings and recommendations, should be submitted by July 30, 1973, to the 40 Committee for review and preparation of a report to the President.

White House

Henry A. Kissinger

cc: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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